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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities
Expert Meeting on Air Transport Services: Clarifying issues to Define the Elements of the Positive Agenda of Developing Countries as regards both the GATS and Specific Sector Negotiations of Interest to Them
Geneva, 21-23 June 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Clarifying issues on air transport services to define the elements of the positive agenda of developing countries as regards both the GATS and the specific sector negotiations of interest to them.

4. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting.

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. It is recommended that the Expert Meeting elect of Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption f the agenda and organization of work

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert meeting on Air Transport Services is reproduced in section I above. The provisional schedule of meetings for the three days is attached to this document.

3. As decided by the Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities, at its third session (28 September - 2 October 1998), this

meeting of experts is convened to clarify issues on air transport services to define the elements of the positive agenda of developing countries as regards both the GATS and specific sector negotiations of interest to them. It is suggested that the Meeting be organized in a manner that will permit the discussion to be supported by concrete examples from developing countries experiences. Accordingly, it is recommended that presentations by country experts, relevant international organizations and representatives of civil society (e.g. NGOs) include relevant developing country experiences relating to the issues being addressed.

Item 3 - Clarifying issues on air transport services to define the elements of the positive agenda of developing countries as regards both the GATS and the specific sector negotiations of interest to them.

4. The Expert Meeting will have before it a background note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat entitled "Air Transport Services: The positive agenda for developing countries" (TD/B/COM.1/EM.9/2). The discussions could follow the outline proposed in the background note: (i) major issues in the current air transport debate; (ii) problems facing developing countries in strengthening their export capacities and obtaining market access for air transport services; and (iii) action to address the problems, including in the context of the review of the GATS Annex on Air Transport Services.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.1/Em.9/2 Air transport Services: The positive Agenda for developing countries.

Item 4 - Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

5. The Expert Meeting will adopt its recommendations/findings/conclusions at the end of the Meeting. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Inputs from experts

Member States, or experts nominated by them, are encouraged to submit brief papers in advance of the meeting to the UNCTAD secretariat on specific country experiences relating to the subject mater being addressed by the Meeting. Papers could cover country-specific experiences relating to: (a) problems and concerns in maintaining the efficiency and competitiveness of national airlines; (b) difficulties in penetrating the world markets for air transport services through the negotiations of bilateral agreements; (c) interests involved in the upcoming review of the GATS Annex on Air Transport Services and multilateral initiatives within the framework of ICAO. Country papers will be made available to other participants at the meeting in the form and language in which they are received. Member countries are requested to kindly submit the papers by 15 June 1999 to:

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Schedule of the meeting

Monday 21 June	Tuesday 22 June	Wednesday 23 June
(10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) **Plenary:** Opening statement Item 1: Election of officers Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work. **Informals** Item 3: clarifying issues on air transport services to define the elements of the positive agenda of developing ccuntries as regards both the GATS and the specific sector negotiations of interest to them	(10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) **Informals (cont'd)** Item 3:	(10 a.m. - 1 p.m.) **Informals (cont'd)** consideration of draft text of the outcome of the Meeting
(3 p.m.) **Informals (cont'd)** item 3	(3 p.m.) **Informals (cont'd)** Item 3	(3 p.m. - 6 p.m.) **Informals (cont'd)** Consideration of draft text of the outcome of the Meeting (cont'd) **Plenary** (closing) Item 4: Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting